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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/702,728

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Evan Lawrence Bryman

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NGA B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/702,728

Applicant(s)

BRYMAN, EVAN LAWRENCE

Examiner

Nga B. Nguyen

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3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is the answer to the communication filed on March 22, 2005, which paper has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims 1-28 are pending in this application.

### ***Response to Amendment/Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

- 4 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 5 Claims 1, 8-10, 17, and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buchanan et al (hereinafter Buchanan), U.S. Patent No. 5,950,179, in view of the prior art disclosed in the applicant's Specification.

Regarding to claim 1, Buchanan discloses a computer-implemented method for reducing fraud on a financial account, method comprising:

electronically identifying an account for potential fraud based an outstanding balance of the account to exceed a predetermined limit (column 6, lines 63-67; identifying an account over the credit limit);

reviewing account transactions of the identified account to determine whether fraud has been made on the account (column 4, lines 49-58 and column 5, lines 47-67; the tracking system reviews the account transactions and account status); and

restricting the identified account when determining fraud has been made on the account (column 6, lines 65-67; rejecting any transaction that makes the credit card balance over the credit limit).

Buchanan does not disclose the potential fraud based on payments made to the account that made or would make an outstanding balance of the account to exceed a predetermined limit. However, the prior art disclosed in the applicant's Specification discloses the potential fraud based on payments made to the account that made or would make an outstanding balance of the account to exceed a predetermined limit (see pages 1-3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Buchanan's to incorporate the features above for the purpose of reducing fraud on a credit card account thus minimizing the risk for the credit card issuer.

Regarding to claim 8, Buchanan does not disclose wherein reviewing is performed manually. However, reviewing is performed manually is well known in the art of reviewing a credit card account by a credit card company. For example, an employee working for a credit card company can retrieve an account record in the computer system and performs the reviewing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify Buchanan's to include the feature above for the purpose of cost saving, because the

credit card company does not need to install a specific software for automatically doing the reviewing, the reviewing is performed manually by an employee.

Regarding to claim 9, Buchanan discloses wherein reviewing is performed automatically (column 5, lines 48-60, tracking is performed automatically by the computer tracking system 40).

Claim 10 is written in computer software that are parallel the limitations found in claim 1 above, therefore, is rejected by the same rationale.

Claims 17, 24, 25 are written means that are parallel the limitations found in claims 1, 8, 9 above, therefore, are rejected by the same rationale.

Regarding to claims 26-28, Buchanan does not disclose wherein reviewing account transactions includes determining how many good payments the customer has made within a predetermined time period. However, determining number of good payments the customer has made within a predetermined time period is well known in the art of tracking a credit card account by a credit card company. ***In the conventional credit card system***, payments made by the cardholder are recorded in the database, thus it is obvious and easy to determine number of good payments during a predetermined time period. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Buchanan's to include the well known feature above for the purpose tracking the payments made by the customer in order to reducing fraud on a credit card account thus minimizing the risk for the credit card issuer.

6        Claims 2-7, 11-16, and 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buchanan et al (hereinafter Buchanan), U.S. Patent No. 5,950,179, in view of the prior art disclosed in the applicant's Specification, and further in view of Gopinathan et al (hereinafter Gopinathan), U.S. Patent No. 5,819,226.

Regarding to claims 2-4, Buchanan discloses wherein identifying an account further comprises: locating an account having a bad payment (column 5, lines 5-15). Buchanan does not disclose determining whether the bad payment made an outstanding balance of the account over a predetermined limit; determining whether an outstanding payment would make the outstanding balance of the account over the predetermined limit if the payment is bad; and flagging the account for review when the bad payment made the outstanding balance of the account over the predetermined limit or the outstanding payment would make the outstanding balance of the account over the predetermined limit if it is bad. However, the prior art disclosed in the applicant's Specification discloses the potential fraud based on payments made to the account that made or would make an outstanding balance of the account to exceed a predetermined limit (see pages 1-3). Moreover, Gopinathan discloses flagging the account for review when the account is fraud (column 27, lines 20-35). Moreover, determining whether the bad payment or the outstanding payment made an outstanding balance of the account over a predetermined limit is well known in the art of tracking a credit card account by a credit card company (see claim 1 above). Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify Buchanan's to include the combining idea of flagging the account for review

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when the account is fraud as taught by Gopinathan with the obviousness described above, for the purpose of reducing fraud on a credit card account.

Regarding to claims 5-7, Buchanan does not disclose wherein reviewing comprises: comparing the number of good payments made on the account to a good payment threshold; determining an over limit credit amount that an outstanding balance of the account has exceeded a predetermined limit a specific time; determining a total over limit credit amount by totaling each over limit credit amount during a predetermined time period; comparing the total over limit credit amount with an over limit threshold; and restricting the account when the number of good payments is less than the good payment threshold and the total over limit credit amount is greater than the over limit threshold. However, Gopinathan discloses comparing transaction's fraud score to a threshold value, if the threshold has been exceeded, the transaction blocked by the authorization system (column 28, lines 3-15). Moreover, determining number of good, bad payments, an over limit credit amount during a predetermined time period is well known in the art of tracking a credit card account by a credit card company. ***In the conventional credit card system***, payments made by the cardholder and over credit amount are recorded in the database, thus it is obvious and easy to determine number of good and bad payments and an over limit credit amount during a predetermined time period. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify Buchanan's to adopt the teaching of Gopinathan by comparing a value against a threshold value with the obviousness described above, for the purpose of providing more accuracy in determining the credit worthiness of a credit card account holder.

Claims 11-16 are written in computer software that are parallel the limitations found in claims 2-7 above, therefore, are rejected by the same rationale.

Claims 18-23 are written means that are parallel the limitations found in claims 2-7 above, therefore, are rejected by the same rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

7 Claims 1-28 are rejected.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on (571) 272-6799.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

9. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
C/o Technology Center 3600  
Washington, DC 20231

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communication intended for entry),



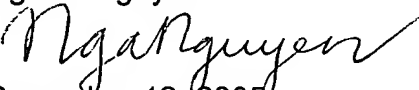
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or

(571) 273-0325 (for informal or draft communication, please label  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Knox building, 501 Dulany  
Street, Alexandria, VA, First Floor (Receptionist).

Nga B. Nguyen



December 12, 2005